

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03336 052232Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 DHA-02 /072 W

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R 050811Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6960

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3336

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL

REF: SEOUL 3302

1. MAY 4 AND 5 KOREAN PAPERS CARRIED STRAIGHT FORWARD, ALMOST VERBATIM ACCOUNTS OF PROCEEDINGS OF FIRST SESSION OF TRIAL OF KIM TAE-CHUNG AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN MYONGDONG AFFAIR. UNLIKE AP WIRE STORY AND WE PRESUME OTHER FOREIGN PRESS STORIES, KOREAN PRESS DID NOT MENTION ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COURTROOM SUCH AS FACTS THAT FAMILIES OF MOST DEFENDANTS BOYCOTTED TRIAL BY REFUSING TO USE PASSES ISSUED BY COURT AND THAT WIVES OF NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS SAT BEFORE GATE TO COURT WITH THEIR MOUTHS SEALED WITH BLACK TAPE CROSSES.

2. COMMENT: FACT THAT ROKG PERMITTED FAIRLY FULL PRESS COVERAGE OF TRIAL SOMETHING OF A DEPARTURE IN THAT MYONGDONG AFFAIR HAS THUS FAR BEEN GIVEN LIMITED TREATMENT. HOWEVER, COVERAGE PROBABLY REFLECTS AWARENESS THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTAIN NEWS OF TRIAL OF THIS IMPORTANCE AND ACCURATE BUT LIMITED REPORTING BETTER THAN RUMOR. MOREOVER, THROUGH PRESS COVERAGE, ROKG PROBABLY ATTEMPTING TO DEMONSTRATE TO INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE AND PARTICULARLY THE U.S. THAT TRIAL IS BEING CONDUCTED IN A FAIR AND OPEN MANNER.

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Message Attributes

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